IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-38 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Please add new claims 39-55 as follows:

39. (New) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of inflammation of normal mammalian bronchial epithelial cells said method comprising administering to a subject a therapeutic agent which effects a composition selected from the group consisting of FABP-4 (aP2) and FABP-5 (mal1).

40. (New) The method of Claim 39 wherein the mammalian bronchial epithelial cells are human bronchial epithelial cells.

41. (New) The method of Claim 39 wherein the agent reduces the level of one or both said compositions.

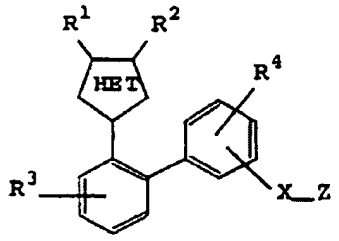
42. (New) The method of Claim 39 wherein the agent reduces the activity of one or both said compositions.

43. (New) The method of Claim 39 wherein the agent is administered as an inhalant.

44. (New) The method of Claim 39 wherein the subject is a human.

45. (New) The method of Claim 39 for the treatment of asthma.

46. (New) The method of Claim 39 wherein the agent is a heterocyclic containing biphenyl compound of Formula I

I 

wherein:

R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, aralkyl, cycloheteroalkyl and cycloheteroalkylalkyl;

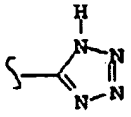
R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenyl, alkylcarbonyl, cycloheteroalkyl, cycloheteroalkylalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl, haloalkyl, polyhaloalkyl, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, amino, alkanoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkylaminosulfonyl, alkylamino, dialkylamino, all optionally substituted through available carbon atoms with l, 2, 3, 4 or S groups selected from hydrogen, halo, alkyl, polyhaloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, polyhaloalkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, cycloheteroalkylalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, nitro, cyano, amino, substituted amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, thiol, alkylthio, alkylcarbonyl, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, alkynylaminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, alkenylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkylcarbonylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfinyl, aminosulfinyl, alkylsulfinyl, sulfonamido and sulfonyl;

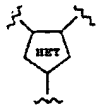
R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, polycycloalkyl, polycycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkynyl,

alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, cycloheteroalkyl, cycloheteroalkylalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl, polycycloalkenyl, polycycloalkenylalkyl, polycycloalkynyl, polycycloalkynylalkyl, haloalkyl, polyhaloalkyl, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, amino, alkanoyl, aroyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkylaminosulfonyl, arylaminosulfonyl, alkylamino, dialkylamino, all optionally substituted through available carbon atoms with 1, 2, 3, 4 or S groups selected from hydrogen, halo, alkyl, haloalkyl, polyhaloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, polyhaloalkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, cycloheteroalkylalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, arylalkyl, arylcycloalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, aryloxy, aryloxyalkyl, arylalkoxy, arylazo, heteroaryloxo, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylalkenyl, heteroaryloxy, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, nitro, cyano, amino, substituted amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, arylthioalkyl, alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, acyl, arylaminocarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, alkynylaminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, alkenylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, arylsulfinyl, arylsulfinylalkyl, arylsulfonyl, alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfinyl, aminosulfonyl, arylsulfonylamino, heteroarylcarbonylamino, heteroarylsulfinyl, heteroarylthio, heteroarylsulfonyl, alkylsulfonyl, sulfonamido and sulfonyl;

X is a bond or a linker group selected from the group consisting of $(CH_2)_n$, O $(CH_2)_n$, S $(CH_2)_n$, NHCO, CH=CH, cycloalkylene and $N(R^5)$ $(CH_2)_n$, (where n = 0-5 and R^5 is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, and alkanoyl;

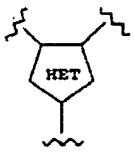
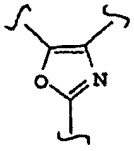
Z is selected from the group consisting of CO_2H and tetrazole of the formula

 or its tautomer; and

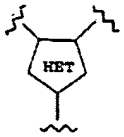
the group  represents a heterocyclic group (including heteroaryl and cycloheteroalkyl groups) preferably containing 5-members within the ring and containing preferably 1-3 heteroatoms within the ring, and which may further optionally include one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, hydroxyalkyl, keto, carboxyalkyl, carboxy, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, formyl, alkanoyl, alkoxyalkyl and alkoxycarboxyl;

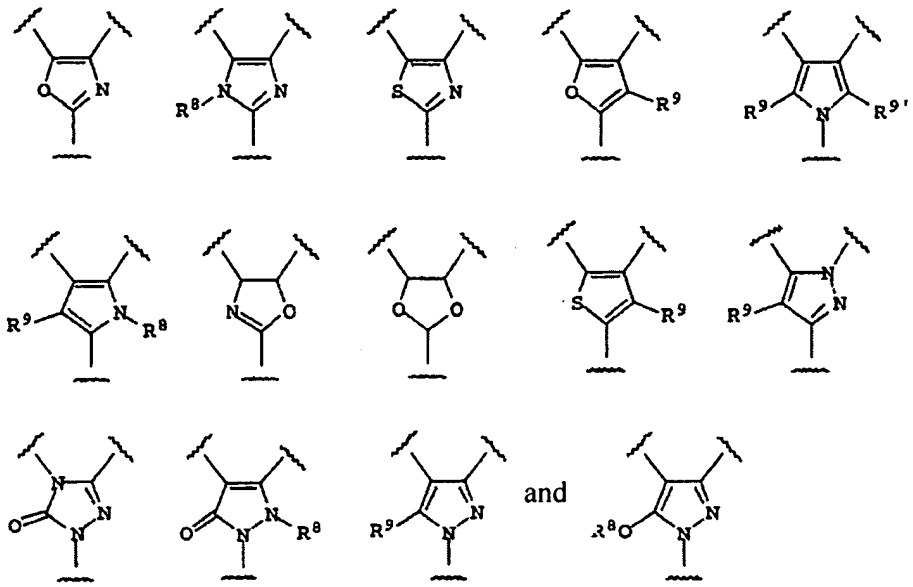
with the provisos that:

(1) $n \neq o$ when Z is CO_2H and X is $O(CH_2)_n$, $S(CH_2)_n$ or $N(R^5)(CH_2)_n$); and

(2) when  is  , then X-Z may not be O-lower alkylene-CO_2H or -O-lower alkylene-CO_2alkyl when R^1 and R^2 are both aryl or substituted aryl and R^3 and R^4 are each hydrogen;

or a stereoisomers of said compound.

47. (New) The method of Claim 46 wherein the group  comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of a heteroaryl group and a cycloheteroalkyl group wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of



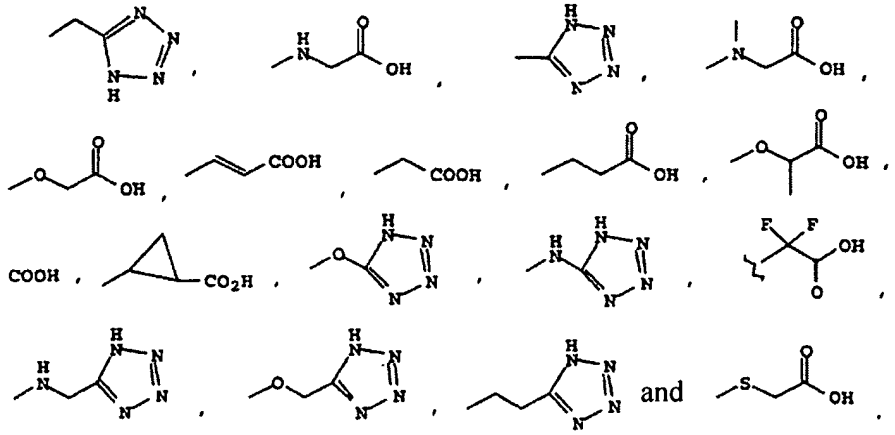
wherein:

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, and alkenyl, and

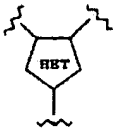
R^9 and $R^{9'}$ are the same or different and are selected independently from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkoxy, alkenyl, formyl, CO_2H, CO_2 (lower alkyl), hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, CO(alkyl), carboxylalkyl, haloalkyl, alkenyl and cycloalkyl.

48. (New) The method of Claim 47 wherein any of said alkyl or alkyl-containing groups of R^8, R^9 and $R^{9'}$ includes 1 to 6 carbons.

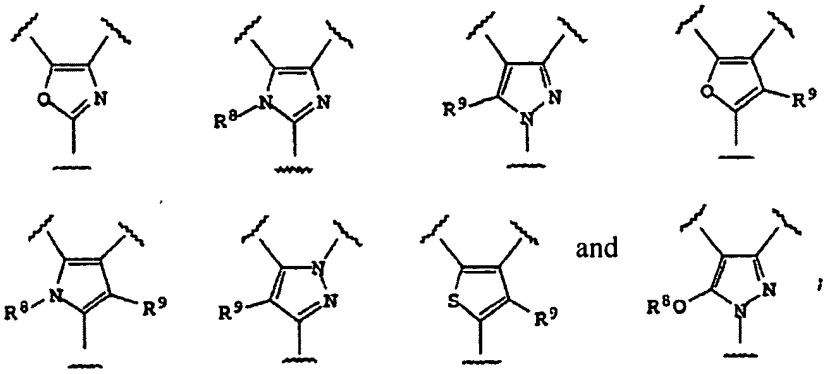
49. (New) The method of Claim 46 wherein X-Z moieties are selected from the group consisting of



50. (New) The method of Claim 46 wherein:



is selected from the group consisting of



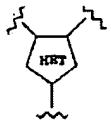
R^8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, fluoroalkyl and alkoxyalkyl, and where R^9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, fluoroalkyl, alkoxy and hydroxyalkyl;

R^1 and R^2 are each selected from the group consisting of phenyl, substituted phenyl and cycloalkyl;

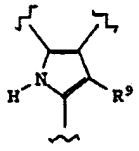
R^3 and R^4 are the same or different and are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halo, alkyl and alkoxy; X is selected from the group consisting of OCH_2, $NHCH_2$, CH_2 and CH_2CH_2; and

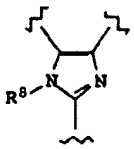
Z is selected from the group consisting of CO_2H and tetrazole.

51. (New) The method of Claim 46 wherein

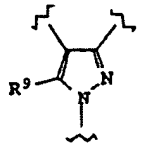


is selected from the group consisting of





and



;

wherein:

R^8 is hydrogen, alkyl or fluoroalkyl;

R^9 is hydrogen, alkyl, fluoroalkyl or alkoxy;

R^1 and R^2 are each phenyl;

R^3 and R^4 are each H; X is OCH_2, CH_2 or $NHCH_2$; and

Z is CO_2H or tetrazole.

52. (New) Use of a compound selected from the group consisting of FABP-4 and FABP-5 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of inflammation of normal bronchial epithelial cells.

53. (New) Use of Claim 52 wherein said inflammation is associated with asthma.

54. (New) A method for the diagnosis of inflammation of normal bronchial epithelial cells, a propensity for development of such inflammation or for monitoring the efficacy of a therapeutic protocol to treat said inflammation, said method comprising determining the pattern of expression of FABP-4 or FABP-5 wherein up-regulated levels of FABP-4 or FABP-5 or the proteins encoded thereby is indicative of said inflammation.

55. (New) The method of Claim 54 wherein the inflammatory condition is associated with asthma.